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CHARTER AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

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COLORED HOME,

OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

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NEW-YORK:

WM. C. MARTIN, PRINTER, 111 JOHN STREET.

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1863.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE "COLORED HOME,"

OF THE

City of New-York.

[Passed May 8, 1845, by a Two-Third Vote.]

The People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:—

SECTION 1. William Shotwell, William W. Chester, James D. Fitch, Mary Shotwell, Lydia Beebee, Augusta Arcularius, and Hannah M. Chester, being the present Officers and Managers of the Society, for the support of "THE COLORED HOME," their associates and successors, are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name of "THE COLORED HOME;" and as such, shall have all the general rights and privileges of a corporation, as the same are declared in the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes.

SEC. 2. The objects of the said corporation are declared to be to provide for the support and comfort of infirm and destitute colored persons of both sexes, and for that purpose the said corporation is hereby empowered to take and hold real estate in the city and county of New-York, not exceeding in value fifty thousand dollars, and personal property to an amount not exceeding fifty thousand dollars.

SEC. 3. The members of the said corporation may, by their by-laws, prescribe the number and description of officers to manage its concerns, the duration of their offices, the time of their election, and their duties and powers.

SEC. 4. The officers of the said corporation shall be elected by the members of the Society, at least once in three years, and as much oftener as shall be provided in the by-laws of said Society.

SEC. 5. In case the corporation of the city of New-York shall convey to the corporation hereby created a tract of land in or near said city, or shall otherwise endow the said corporation, then, and in such case, the Common Council of the city of New-York may appoint such a number of Trustees or Managers of said corporation, and be otherwise represented therein, as shall be agreed on, and specified, at the time of such conveyance or endowment.

SEC. 6. The corporation hereby created shall be subject to the visitation of the Common Council of the city of New-York, of the Governor, Secretary of State, and Comptroller, or either of them, and such agents or persons as shall be appointed by the Governor, Secretary of State, or Comptroller.

SEC. 7. The officers of the Colored Home shall annually make to the Governor, and also to the Common Council of the city of New-York, a full and true statement of the condition of the said corporation, and its affairs generally; and of all the receipts and expenditures of the said Society for the past year, and in any and every other particular as may be at any time required by the Secretary of State, or by the Common Council of the city of New-York.

SEC. 8. The Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this act.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

[Amended Feb. 1848, and April, 1849.]

BE it ordained by the Board of Officers of the Colored Home, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that the following Rules and Regulations be, and they are hereby established, as the Laws and Ordinances of the said corporation:—

ARTICLE 1. This Institution shall consist of two departments: First, the Home proper. Second, the Hospital for sick patients.

ART. 2. All persons contributing three dollars, or more, annually, or twenty-five dollars at one time, to the funds of this Institution, shall be members thereof, and entitled to vote at all elections for officers, provided, always, that all payments for such subscriptions or contributions shall be made to the Treasurer of this Institution one week before the election for officers takes place; and any payment made after that day, shall not entitle a person to vote at the election then next ensuing. Any member of the Society may vote by proxy, provided his or her signature be acknowledged before a Commissioner of Deeds, or otherwise proved to the satisfaction of the Inspectors of the Election, or a majority of them.

ART. 3. The Officers of this Institution, constituting a Board, shall be a First Directress, a Second Directress, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and twenty-one Managers—seven of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business—and six Advisers; with a right of the Board to increase the number, not exceeding ten; which Officers and Advisers shall, after the next election, which will

occur on the last Thursday in April, 1848, be triennially elected by ballot, on the last Thursday in April; the election to be held at such place in the city of New-York, below Twentieth-street, as shall be designated by the Board. The Board shall have power to fill all vacancies that may occur until the next regular election; and shall, at such time as they see fit, appoint three Inspectors to attend the regular election of officers, as they may occur. These Inspectors shall have power to decide upon the legality of the votes offered, and to reject or receive them, as a majority of said Inspectors may determine, and to regulate, generally, the mode of conducting the election. They shall have power, also, to extend the time named for receiving votes, if it be found necessary, in such manner as a majority of said Inspectors may see fit; and the said Inspectors shall report the result of the said election to the First Directress, so elected, who shall notify the other members of the Board of their election.

ART. 4. The Board shall hold stated meetings on the last Monday of every month, and shall hold a meeting, to be called by the first or second officer, within one week after the annual election, at such time and place as she may direct; at which meeting, or at a subsequent stated meeting, they shall appoint a Resident Physician, a Chaplain, and a Matron, who shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the Board. Also a Medical Council, Auditors, and the following Committees for the year, viz:—

The House Committee, consisting of at least five members, of which the First Directress shall be Chairman, whose duty it shall be to visit "The Home" at least twice in every week, to decide upon all applications for admissions and dismissions, and have a general supervision of the Institution.

The Committee of Supplies and Repairs, consisting of

at least five members, whose duty it shall be to make all necessary purchases for the Institution.

The Hospital Committee, consisting of at least five members, of which the Second Directress shall be Chairman, whose duty it shall be to visit the Hospital at least once a week, and assist the Physician in the care of the same.

The Reading Committee, to consist of at least five members, whose duty it shall be to visit and read to the inmates the Scriptures and other suitable religious works, at least once a week.

The Clothing Committee, to consist of at least five members, whose duty it shall be to superintend the making of the clothing and distribute the same to the House and Hospital Committees.

The Medical Council, to consist of three Physicians and three Surgeons, who shall be nominated to the Board by the Resident Physician, with the approval of the Hospital Committee, whose duty it shall be to be in attendance monthly, by turns, and to visit the Institution, when required by the Resident Physician.

ART. 5. An Auditing Committee, to examine the Treasurer's Report.

ART. 6. Every Committee shall report in writing upon every subject referred to them; and the three first-named Committees shall report monthly.

ART. 7. The First Directress, or, in her absence, the Second Directress, may call a special meeting of the Board whenever she shall think necessary, and may appoint the time and place of such meeting, giving due notice thereof. She shall preside at all meetings, unless one of the Advisers to the Board shall be requested by her, or by a vote of the Board, to take the Chair; and the presiding officer shall preserve order and nominate all Committees, except where otherwise provided for by the Board.

ART. 8. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to conduct all the proper correspondence of the Institution, and preserve all letters received by her, and copies of all letters written by her. She shall draft the Annual Report upon the state of the Institution, and send a copy of the same to the Governor of the State, and the Common Council of the city of New-York, and furnish such other statements and information as is required by the 7th section of the Charter; and who, for this purpose, shall have access to the records and official papers of the Board.

ART. 9. The Recording Secretary shall have the custody of the seal of the corporation, and of all vouchers, deeds, or certificates of property belonging to the Institution. She shall attend the meetings of the Society and of the Board, read the minutes, and record the proceedings of each meeting, in a book kept for the purpose. The Secretary, if required by the Board, shall give prior notice of every meeting, stated and special, to each member of the Board, and give due notice to all persons elected or appointed upon Committees.

ART. 10. The Treasurer shall give security, to be approved by the Board, for the faithful performance of the trust, shall attend the meetings of the Board, and shall receive and disburse all moneys of the Institution, depositing the same in one of the banks of the city of New-York, in the name of the corporation, and keeping a proper account therewith; the money to be drawn from the bank by checks signed by the Treasurer, and, if so ordered by the Board, by one of the Secretaries. No bills shall be paid by the Treasurer until they have passed the Board; but the First and Second Directress may each draw upon the Treasurer for moneys not exceeding, together, one hundred dollars per month, to be paid by the Treasurer, on their respective receipts. For the expenditure of all moneys so drawn, an account

shall be rendered at the next meeting of the Board, by the Directress receiving the same. The Treasurer shall report at each stated meeting the receipts and disbursements of the past month, and the balance in the Treasury, but shall have no power to sell or transfer stocks, except by order of the Board.

ART. 11. The Resident Physician shall receive a salary of not less than five hundred dollars per annum. He shall have the general charge and superintendence of the Institution, under the direction of the Board, and shall appoint the nurses, an assistant, and an apothecary, when required by the Board. He shall perform no capital operation, except in case of immediate danger, without the previous approbation of at least three of the Medical Council; the operations shall, with these exceptions, be performed by the Surgeon in attendance.

ART. 12. The Chaplain shall have the ordering and arrangement of all the religious exercises performed in the Institution, under the direction of the Board.

ART. 13. The Matron, subject to the order of the House Committee, shall oversee the female patients and servants in the Home, and take care that the apartments, beds, clothes, linen, and other things, are kept clean. All the inmates and servants shall be obedient and submissive to her; and she shall have the care of the household goods and furniture.

ART. 14. Any Manager absenting herself from the meetings, or neglecting her duties at the House for three successive months, shall be called upon by a Committee from the Board, and failing to assign a satisfactory reason for such delinquency, the Board may, by a vote, declare her office vacated, and appoint another to her place. All the officers of the Board shall be, ex-officio, Managers, and entitled to vote on all matters before the Board, provided, always, that the said officers of the Board, and all the officers or agents of the Institution,

shall be subject to the directions and orders of the Board; and for any refusal to obey the same, or for any malversation in office, may be removed by the Board from their said office, by a vote of two-thirds the members present, at a meeting, of which at least four days' previous notice shall have been given, and which said notice shall express the object of the meeting, and that a motion of removal will be thereat made; and in case of such removal, the Board may appoint an officer, pro-tem., to fill the office thus vacated, until the next election shall take place.

ART. 15. No amendment shall be made in the foregoing Rules and Regulations, nor any new law added, unless the same shall have been moved at a previous stated meeting, and mention thereof made in the notices for the next stated meeting; and the same shall then be adopted by a majority of the Board of Officers and Managers.

In the year 1845, Mrs. MARIA SHATZEL bequeathed property to the Colored Home, on condition that the said property, or the proceeds of it should it be sold, shall be to constitute a permanent fund for a specific object, to be called the Jacob Shatzel Foundation, the income of which, alone, shall be appropriated year by year to the object designated.

